
18 Sodding

Preparation of Ground Before Sodding

Laying Sod

Watering Sod

Method of Measurement

Basis of Payment

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN:

SODDING

Sod is grass which is cut from a well established field of grass and placed at other locations. The locations at which sod is placed is determined by the plans and as directed by PE/PS.

Nursery sod and sod are the two types of sod listed in the Specifications. Nursery sod and sod are generally placed at the following locations:

- 1) Slopes steeper than 2 to 1
- 2) Slopes where runoff from the adjacent property may cause erosion
- 3) In front of dwellings
- 4) In ditches with a grade of 1% to 3%
- 5) Adjacent to curbs, sidewalks, inlets, end sections, paved side ditch, etc.
- 6) In areas where mulch seeding does not serve satisfactorily

This chapter includes the Specifications for:

- 1) Preparation of ground before sodding
 - 2) Laying sod
 - 3) Watering sod
 - 4) Limitations
 - 5) Measurement and payment
 - 6) Acceptance of sod.
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PREPARATION OF GROUND BEFORE SODDING

The area to be sodded is required to be smooth, uniform, and in accordance with the required cross section. Surfaces prepared for sod are required to be of sufficient depth below unseated areas so that newly laid sod is level with the surrounding surface. For those areas which are covered with topsoil, the procedure for the application of topsoil is required to be in accordance with Section **621.04**.

After the area has been prepared for sod, fertilizer is applied at the rate of 400 lb/acre. The surface is loosened to a depth of 1 to 2 in. and then raked before the sod is placed. All clods, lumps, boulders, or waste material is removed.

In areas where the above method of preparation is impracticable, a different method may be approved.

Notching for sod is required to be of sufficient depth that newly laid sod is level with the surrounding soil surface. Notching eliminates the possibility of the sod edges from drying out and dying. Notching is required to be done when sodding is layed adjacent to:

- 1) Surrounding soil
- 2) Sidewalk and curb
- 3) Existing sod
- 4) Pavement

Notching is not required along paved side ditch, end sections and graded box end sections, or curbs along slope walls.

LAYING SOD

Sod strips are required to be laid by hand in the designated direction. The sod is fitted to the surrounding grade and fixed objects and is butted together closely to avoid open joints. Overlapping of sod is not permitted. After laying and initial watering, the sod is tamped or rolled to ensure contact with the soil underneath and to be level with the surrounding surface. After compaction, the sod is required to present a smooth even surface free from lumps and depressions. On slopes of 3:1 or flatter, the use of broken sod strips is permitted. Where broken pieces are laid, no overlaps are allowed.

Sod placed in ditches with grades steeper than 1 % and on slopes 3: 1 and steeper are required to be pegged. The pegs are spaced not over 2 ft apart in each strip measured lengthwise of the strip. Pegs are required to be driven down until no more than 1 in. protrudes above the surface of the sod. Grades and slopes flatter than specified herein are required to be pegged as directed.

Pegs are required to be wood and be at least 0.5 in. by 0.075 in. by 12 in. Instead of pegs, T-shaped wire pins may be used. T-shaped pins are required to be machine bent from 8 gage low carbon steel with a minimum of a 8 in. leg, a 4 in. head, and a 1 in. secondary drive. Pins are driven flush with the top of the sod.

WATERING SOD

Sod is watered immediately after laying. The amount of watering is required to be sufficient to saturate the sod and the upper few inches of the underlying soil. The sod is required to be watered once each day of the first week, once every second day of the second week, once every third day of the third week, and once a week thereafter. Sod is maintained for a minimum of four weeks from the time the sod is laid before being accepted. During periods of ample rainfall, watering may be modified to simulate the above schedule. Sod placed during the months of June, July, and August is required to be in good, live, growing condition and be placed within 36 h after cutting, and be protected from damage during the 36 h period.

Winter sodding is permitted when the temperature is above 35°F. No frozen sod may be laid, and no sod may be laid on frozen soil. Sod is required to be properly protected from drying and be laid within 48 h after cutting.

METHOD OF MEASUREMENT

Sod is measured in place and the measurements recorded in a field book. If a small contract quantity is required, an IC 614 may be used. The data recorded in the field book includes:

- 1) A drawing showing location
- 2) Date placed
- 3) Detailed measurements
- 4) Name(s) of personnel doing the measuring
- 5) Computation of areas

The field measurements are taken to the nearest 1/2 ft. The computation of individual areas are required to be to the nearest 0.1 yd². Once the individual areas are totaled, the final sum is rounded to the nearest whole square yard.

BASIS OF PAYMENT

The sod is required to be free from all primary noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are:

- 1) Canada Thistle
- 2) Field Bindweed
- 3) Johnson Grass
- 4) Quack Grass
- 5) Perennial Peppergrass
- 6) Perennial Sowthistle
- 7) Russian Knapweed
- 8) Wild Garlic

Sod is accepted by visual inspection. Acceptance in the field before cutting does not preclude rejection of the sod when delivered to the contract site.

Nursery Sod is required to meet the requirements for sod. Nursery sod is a variety or blend of Kentucky bluegrass and is required to comply with nursery inspections and plant quarantine regulations of the States of origin. Nursery sod is required to comply with Federal regulations governing interstate movement of nursery stock. A valid copy of the certification of nursery inspection is required to accompany each shipment. The technician is required to obtain the certification of nursery inspection from the Contractor.

Sodding and Nursery Sodding is paid for at the contract unit price per square yard complete in place. The accepted quantity of fertilizer furnished and delivered complete in place is included in the price for sodding. Topsoil is paid for at the contract price per cubic yard.